

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 05696

EXDIS

USEEC

PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR HENRY OWEN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC ECIN
SUBJECT: ECONOMIC SUMMITS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 5612, (B) BRUSSELS 5367, (C) BRUSSELS
4285

1. AT DINNER MARCH 21, DANISH CHAIRMAN OF COREPER
AMBASSADOR RIBERHOLDT SAID HE WAS PLEASED WITH FINANCE
COUNCIL'S INITIAL DISCUSSION (REF A) OF ISSUES WHICH
COMMISSION AND DANES HOPE WILL BE BROUGHT FORWARD TO
JULY SUMMITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT IS CLEARLY THEIR
COMBINED STRATEGY (REF B).

2. I USED OCCASION TO OUTLINE FOR RIBERHOLDT (AND JENKINS'
CHEF DE CABINET TICKELL, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT) GENERAL
CONCEPT OF PROPOSAL ON ENERGY INVESTMENT GOALS WHICH WE
RECENTLY PUT TO WASHINGTON (REF C). RIBERHOLDT WAS VERY
MUCH TAKEN WITH CONCEPT, COMMENTING THAT IT REPRESENTED
THRUST OF PROGRAM WHICH, AS DANISH REP TO IEA, HE HAD
LONG FAVORED. HE SAID HE PERSONALLY WOULD EVEN PREFER
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TO PUSH FURTHER THAN AGREEMENT ON PRODUCTION AND CONSER-
VATION INVESTMENT TARGETS AND POLICY "MENU" TO TRY TO
WRITE BINDING COMMITMENTS INTO IEA. I SAID THAT SOUNDED
TOO AMBITIOUS FOR THIS PHASE AND THAT IT SEEMED TO ME
A BETTER TACTIC WOULD BE TO TAKE ONE STEP AT A TIME. IN
ANY CASE, HE AFFIRMED THAT CONCEPT WAS FULLY CONSISTENT
WITH APPROACH DANISH PRESIDENCY WILL TRY TO PUSH FORWARD

DURING REMAINDER OF ITS CHAIRMANSHIP, LOOKING TOWARD ADOPTION OF AS MANY ELEMENTS AS POSSIBLE OF SUMMIT PACKAGE BY JULY BREMEN EUROPEAN COUNCIL.

3. WE ALSO DISCUSSED WHAT DANES AND COMMISSION HAVE IN MIND UNDER INDUSTRIAL POLICY, EMPLOYMENT, AND RELATIONS WITH LDC'S RUBRIC OUTLINED REF A. IT APPEARS THEIR THINKING IS TENDING TOWARD CONCEPT OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES BEGINNING TO FOCUS MORE THAN IN PAST ON THEIR POTENTIAL GROWTH AND "ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY" SECTORS IN WHICH THEY CAN EXPECT TO BE COMPETITIVE AS LDC'S BECOME MORE EFFICIENT AND AGGRESSIVE PRODUCERS IN BASIC SECTORS LIKE STEEL, AUTOS, ETC. IDEA (NOT UNLIKE THAT MENTIONED BY PRESIDENT CARTER IN HIS JAN. 4 PARIS SPEECH) WOULD BE TO STUDY (PRESUMABLY IN OECD) HOW INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES COULD MAKE BETTER USE OF AVAILABLE NATIONAL RESOURCES TO PROMOTE MORE RAPID ADJUSTMENT INTO SUCH GROWTH AREAS. HOWEVER, THINKING HERE DOES NOT YET APPEAR TO HAVE GONE MUCH BEYOND THIS LEVEL OF GENERALITY.

4. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION MAR. 21 WITH MISSION OFFICER, DAVIGNON'S CHEF DE CABINET PAEMAN MENTIONED THAT DAVIGNON IS ANXIOUS TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR INDUSTRIAL POLICY IN GROWTH INDUSTRIES SUCH AS AERONAUTICS. PAEMAN SAID THAT DAVIGNON WAS FORCED TO BEGIN ON SICK INDUSTRIES LIKE STEEL AND TEXTILES, BUT SEES A GREATER NEED FOR CO-CONFIDENTIAL

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ORDINATED POLICIES IN GROWTH INDUSTRIES. PAEMAN ADDED THAT THE COMMISSION HAS ASKED SEVERAL ACADEMICS TO DO SOME STUDIES FOR IT IN THIS FIELD. PAEMAN ALSO SAID THAT DAVIGNON HAS HAD SOME CONTACT WITH INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES WHO ARE RELATIVELY ENTHUSIASTIC. HE SEES THE MAJOR HURDLE AS GETTING THE MEMBER STATES TO AGREE TO A COMMISSION ROLE IN THIS AREA.

5. TICKELL CONFIRMED THAT STRATEGY FOR SUMMIT PREPARATION ALONG THESE LINES WOULD BE BASIS FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN MEETING OF SUMMIT PREPARATORY GROUP IN NEAR FUTURE. HOWEVER, HE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT EUROPEANS REMAIN HIGHLY NERVOUS ABOUT MONETARY SITUATION AND DOLLAR. UNLESS LATTER HAS IMPROVED (OR AT LEAST STABILIZED) BY TIME OF JULY SUMMIT, MUCH OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ATTENTION LIKELY TO FOCUS ON DOLLAR RATHER THAN OTHER PARTS OF PACKAGE. MORRIS

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